

Message Text

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APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
IO:CRFRANK
IO/IBC/BA:WSOUTHWORTH
IO:JWMCDONALD,JR.
AID/IIA/IA/UNR:PSALES
IO/DHP:CENORRIS
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TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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SUBJECT: USE OF KENYA PILOT STUDY ON UN TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

REF: ROME 1834

1. AS OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF IN FURTHER TALKS WITH
FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL YRIART AND OTHER FAO OFFI-
CIALS YOU MAY WISH TO DISPEL MISCONCEPTION THAT KENYA
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PILOT STUDY IS TO BE REPORTED TO UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL
MEETING. FIELD STUDIES, FOR WHICH KENYA STUDY IS A
PILOT, HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL
PRESSURE FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENTS OF EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. WE PROPOSED
LAST OCTOBER IN THE GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION LEVEL
MEETING THAT THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH FIELD STUDIES BE

DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT MEETING, TO BE HELD MAY 2-3. WE INTEND TO PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE KENYA STUDY TO THE GENEVA GROUP AND TO CONGRESS, AND IT HAS BEEN IMPLICIT IN ARRANGEMENTS THAT WE WOULD MAKE THEM AVAILABLE ALSO TO THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UN AGENCIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IT IS NOT OUR PRESENT INTENTION TO PRESENT THE

REPORT TO THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH WE MAY DRAW UPON IT IN OUR POSITION ON RELEVANT ISSUES IN THAT COUNCIL MEETING.

2. YRIART'S EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE VALUE OF A ONE-MONTH EVALUATION EXERCISE ALERTS US TO THE DANGER THAT UN AGENCIES MAY ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT OR DISMISS STUDY'S FINDINGS ON THAT BASIS. IN THE SPECTRUM OF TYPES OF EVALUATION ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT REPORT OF JUNE 1, 1977 (E/6003), THE KENYA PILOT STUDY MAY FALL SHORT OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS SET BECAUSE OF LIMITED RESOURCES, SHORTNESS OF TIME, AND DIFFICULTIES OF A TRULY EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT WILL NOT MAKE VALID AND USEFUL FINDINGS, OR BE NO BETTER THAN THE EXTREMELY LIMITED EVALUATIONS ALREADY CONDUCTED. THE KENYA PILOT STUDY IS ONLY A PART OF A BROADER EFFORT TO

ASSESS THE UN SYSTEM'S EFFECTIVENESS AND RESPONSIVE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NESS IN MEETING LDC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES. IT IS BASED IN LARGE PART UPON CRITIQUES OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN SENT IN BY AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR MANY YEARS, WHICH HAVE GIVEN A GOOD PERCEPTION OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE UN SYSTEM. OUR EMBASSY IN NAIROBI SENT IN SUCH A CRITIQUE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AND WE HAVE USED THAT REPORT AND OTHER MATERIALS IN PRELIMINARY STAGES OF WORK FOR SOME TIME. THE VISIT OF WASHINGTON PERSONNEL TO KENYA AND THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH UN OFFICIALS THERE ARE PARTS OF THE FINAL STAGE OF THE STUDY. THE PILOT STUDY THEN IS TO SERVE AS A MODEL FOR A NUMBER OF OTHER SIMILAR STUDIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. VANCE

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